

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13741 151350Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 CIEP-01

AID-05 /074 W

----- 120427

R 151312Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1364

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSIN USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13741

KUWAIT PASS DOHA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNRWA, SA, XF

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIA MAKES ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA

1. LOCAL PRESS SINCE NOV 13 HAS CARRIED REPORT OF SAUDI GIFT OF DOLS 297,000 TO UNRWA FOR CY 1974, WHICH WOULD BRING TOTAL SAUDI CONTRIBUTION FOR 1974 TO DOLS 897,000.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF NOV 16, UNRWA OFFICIAL (DEFRATES) CONFIRMED SAUDI CONTRIBUTION AND TOTAL SAUDI FIGURE FOR YEAR. HE SAID LATEST SAUDI CONTRIBUTION WAS COMPLETE SURPRISE TO UNRWA, WHICH HAD ASSUMED PREVIOUSLY-ANNOUNCED CONTRIBUTION OF DOLS 600,000 REPRESENTED ENTIRE SAUDI GIFT FOR 1974. WHEN ACTING COMGEN MCELHINEY WENT TO SAUDI
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 13741 151350Z

EMBASSY FOR PRESENTATION, HE DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO PROBE

FOR EXPLANATION. (MCELHINEY'S DECISION RESTS ON SUSPICION THAT LATEST CONTRIBUTION MIGHT HAVE RESULTED FROM SAG ACCOUNTING ERROR, INSTEAD OF BEING NEW COMMITMENT TO GREATER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNRWA.) IN THIS CONNECTION, DEFRATES NOTED THAT, PRIOR TO 1973, SUM OF DOLS 297,000 HAD REPRESENTED SAG'S TOTAL ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FOR MANY YEARS PAST. HE THINKS IT POSSIBLE THAT SAG'S LATEST DONATION IS RESULT OF FAILURE OF SOMEONE IN SAUDI BUREAUCRACY TO KEEP HIS FINANCIAL BOOKS STRAIGHT. ON OTHER HAND, UNRWA OFFICIALS ARE ALSO MILDLY HOPEFUL THAT SAUDI DONATION--EVEN ON SO SMALL A SCALE--MAY PRESAGE EVEN GREATER SAUDI FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN FUTURE.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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